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FILED

DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM

JUL 13 2005

MARY L.M. MORAN
CLERK OF COURT

**DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM
TERRITORY OF GUAM**

(2)

ZACHARY R.U. CAMACHO,

Defendant-Petitioner,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Respondent.

Criminal Case No. 98-00272
Civil Case No. 05-00003

**ORDER DENYING MOTION
TO VACATE, SET ASIDE, OR
CORRECT SENTENCE**
[28 U.S.C. § 2255]

Petitioner Zachary R.U. Camacho ("Petitioner") filed a Motion to Vacate, Set Aside or Correct Sentence by a Person in Federal Custody pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Petitioner claims that in light of the Ninth Circuit's decision in *United States v. Cabaccang*, 332 F. 3d 622, *clarified* by 341 F.3d 905 (9th Cir. 2003) (en banc), his conviction is invalid. After careful consideration of the matter, the Court finds no basis for the relief as requested and DENIES the motion.

I. BACKGROUND

On January 26, 1999, Petitioner pled guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Import Crystal Methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 952(a) and § 963 and one count of Use of a Communication Facility in the Commission of a Felony, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 843(b). At the time of his plea, Petitioner stipulated to facts contained in his plea agreement that he participated in a conspiracy with others "to import crystal methamphetamine a/k/a 'ice' from California and elsewhere, into Guam for purposes of distribution and profit. During the conspiracy the defendant had paid for shipments of 'ice' in the aggregate amount of at least \$20,000" Plea Agreement at ¶ 7(c).

1 On September 12, 2002, the Court sentenced Petitioner to sixty (60) months imprisonment
2 as to the Conspiracy charge and forty-eight (48) months as to the Use of Communication Facility.
3 The sentences were ordered to run concurrently. The judgment of conviction was entered on the
4 docket on September 23, 2002. Petitioner did not file a notice of appeal within ten (10) days after
5 entry of the Court's judgment. His conviction became final on October 3, 2002. *See* FED. R. APP.
6 P. 4(b); *United States v. Schwartz*, 274 F.3d 1220, 1223 (9th Cir. 2000) (holding that a conviction
7 is final if a notice of appeal is not filed within ten (10) days). On January 11, 2005, Petitioner, *pro*
8 *se* and incarcerated, brought this Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.¹

9 II. PETITIONER'S MOTION IS UNTIMELY

10 Petitioner seeks relief asserting there has been a "change in the law" regarding what
11 constitutes importation under 21 U.S.C. § 952(a). Specifically, Petitioner claims that the Ninth
12 Circuit's *Cabaccang* decision invalidates his conviction. *See Cabaccang*, 332 F.3d 622
13 (transportation of a controlled substance through international airspace on a nonstop flight from one
14 United States location to another (including U.S. territories) does not constitute importation as
15 prohibited by 21 U.S.C. § 952(a)). Petitioner argues that he now stands convicted of an offense
16 which is "non-existent" in light of that decision.

17 The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA") imposes a strict one-
18 year limitation on when a prisoner may bring a motion to vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence
19 under that section. 28 U.S.C. § 2255, ¶ 6. The one-year period runs from "the latest" of the events
20 enumerated as follows:

- 21 (1) the date on which the judgment of conviction becomes final;
- 22 (2) the date on which the impediment to making a motion created by
23 governmental action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the
24 United States is removed, if the movant was prevented from making
a motion by such governmental action;
- 25 (3) the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the
26 Supreme Court, if that right has been newly recognized by the
Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on
collateral review; or

27
28 ¹ On March 11, 2005 Petitioner filed a second motion to conform with the Antiterrorism and Effective Death
Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA") as contained in 28 U.S.C. § 2255. *See* Docket No. 102.

1 (4) the date on which the facts supporting the claim or claims
2 presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due
3 diligence.

3 *Id.*

4 Here, Petitioner initially filed this motion on January 11, 2005. Thus, for the motion to be
5 timely, Petitioner must show that one of the four events listed in paragraph six occurred on or after
6 January 11, 2004. The first subsection of paragraph six does not apply because Petitioner's judgment
7 of conviction became final on October 3, 2002, over two years before Petitioner filed the motion.
8 The second subsection does not apply because nothing in Petitioner's motion suggests the removal
9 of any governmental action that was previously impeding him from bringing the motion. The third
10 subsection does not apply because *Cabaccang* is not a Supreme Court decision recognizing a new
11 constitutional right. The fourth subsection does not apply because Petitioner's claim is not supported
12 by newly discovered facts. As none of the four events listed in paragraph six of § 2255 occurred
13 within one year of Petitioner's motion, the motion is not timely.²

14 Moreover, even if the Court were to assume *arguendo* that the *Cabaccang* decision triggers
15 a new one-year period in which to file a motion, Petitioner failed to bring his claim within one year
16 of that decision. *Cabaccang* was issued on June 6, 2003 and the Petitioner filed his § 2255 petition
17 on January 11, 2005, approximately one and a half years later. Accordingly, Petitioner's motion
18 would still be untimely.

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27 ²If Congress had wanted to permit decisions like *Cabaccang* to trigger a new one-year period, Congress simply
28 could have included an additional subsection to paragraph six of § 2255, explicitly stating that the one-year period should
begin to run on the date on which the Supreme Court or any circuit court initially announced a more narrow construction
of the federal statute under which the petitioner is convicted. But paragraph six contains no such provision.

1 **III. DISPOSITION**

2 For the reasons stated above, the Court DENIES Petitioner's motion.

3
4 IT IS SO ORDERED.

5 DATED: *July 7, 2005*

6
7
8 *David O. Carter*

9 **DAVID O. CARTER**
United States District Judge

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11 Notice is hereby given that this document was
12 entered on the docket on *July 13, 2005*.
13 No separate notice of entry on the docket will
14 be issued by this Court.

15 Mary L. M. Moran
16 Clerk, District Court of Guam

17 By: *Marilyn B. Alcor* *7-13-05*
18 Deputy Clerk Date

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28 * The Honorable David O. Carter, United States District Judge for the Central District of California, by
designation.